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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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IN 83788 PAGE 2053

ER GREENFIELD AND MOORE FROM ZORTHIAN

A REGULAR FOREIGN PRESS BRIEFING, MISSION SPOKESMAN KAPLAN HAD FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD CALLAWAY, MEMBER HOUSE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE, LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING, AVAILABLE AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE FOR STATEMENT.
- 2. DEPUTY AMB JOHNSON SAW FORMER ARMY SECT STEVENS AND SWISS CONSUL TODAY.

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 573A C O N F I D E N T I A L
HANOI RADIO INTERNATIONAL SERVICE 1705 GMT JUNE 9 BROADCAST
FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ON PRESIDENT
JOHNSON'S REMARKS ON US TROOPS TAKING PART IN BATTLE HERE:
QOTE IF USG GIVES SELF RIGHT ORDER US TROOPS TAKE PART IN FIGHTING IN
SVN, NLF ALSO GIVES SELF RIGHT CALL WHEN NECESSARY FOR VOLUNTEERS FROM ARM
ES II

OF NVN AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO GO SOUTH TO OPPOSE US AGGRESSION ENDQUOTE.

BOKESMAN REMINDED CORRESPONDENTS THAT NLF FIRST CLAIMED RIGHT TO TO CALL FOR "VOLUNTEERS" ON MARCH 22 BUT REFERRED THEM TO "CHILDREN OF SVN REGROUPED TO NORTH" WITH NO MENTION OF NVN ARMY. THIS WAS FIRST PUBLIC ADMISSION THAT PAVN BEING ASKED TO SUPPLY "VOLUNTEERS".

APLAN ALSO READ TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON US TROOP

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COMMITMENT IN SVN.

MCV REP REPORTED THAT LARGE VIET CONG FORCE ATTACKED DONG
XOAI DISTRICT TOWN, DON LUAN DISTRICT AND NEARBY SPECIAL
FORCES CAMP THIS MORNING BEGINNING AT Ø2ØØ HOURS. TOWN IS LOCATED
ABOUT 6Ø MILES NORTH OF SAIGON. DETAILS OF ATTACK BEING
FILED USINFO CHANNEL.

MCV REP SAID HEAVY FIGHTING IS CONTINUING. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, MACV REP SAID THAT, AS FAR AS MACV KNOWS, SPECIAL FORCES CAMP HAS BEEN OVERAUN. MACV REP ESTIMATED THAT VC FORCE CONSISTED

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 573A CONFIDENTIAL FINEE BATTALIONS TOTALLING 1500 RPT 1500 MEN OR MORE.

RESPON QUESTION, MACV REP SAID THAT VC STILL CONTROL

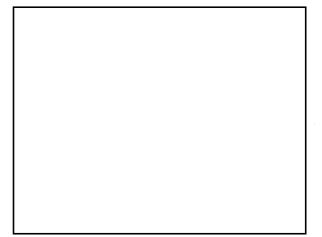
MOST OF BATTLE AREA.

OHNSON

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